Reassesment of iron-ore deposits

1472.SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to undertake a project to reassess our iron-ore deposits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The National Mineral Policy already states that exploration of lower grade hematite etc. will be put on the fast track. The Indian Bureau of Mines has initiated a study named 'Regional Mining Geological Studies' to reassess iron ore deposits in leasehold areas in seven iron ore mining belts of India. The Geological Survey of India has initiated a number of iron ore investigations in the country in freehold areas in the States of Karnataka, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Mineral deposits

1473.SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits of coal, iron-ore, chromite, dolomite, Manganese in the country, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of mines allotted to private companies; and

(c) the percentage of ore export from and the import in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) State-wise information on total deposits of minerals, percentage of mines in private sector and details on export-import of minerals are given in the Indian Minerals Year Book published by the Indian Bureau of Mines, a sub-ordinate office of the Ministry of Mines. A copy of this book has been supplied to the Parliament Library.

Forum for engagement in mineral and steel sectors

1474.SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any statutory or formal forum for pro-active engagement between Government and prospective investors in mineral and steel sectors in the country;

(b) if not, the steps Government proposes to take in the matter; and

(c) what is the current mechanism to address the concerns of the steel or mineral industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) In order to have pro-active engagement between Government and prospective investors in mineral and steel sectors in the country, Ministry of Mines has constituted Mineral Advisory Council under the Chairmanship of the Mines Minister and Granite Development Council and Group on Marble Development under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Mines. These forums have representations from concerned Central Ministries / Departments, State Governments and the industry including prospective investors. Meetings of these forums are held from time to time and issues raised in those meetings are considered and also taken up with concerned Central Ministry and State Government, as the case may be.